

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please delete the drawings and insert therefor the drawings enclosed
herewith.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 7, 11 and 22-26 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Dallas in co-applicant's United States Patent No. 6,364,024.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant disagrees that the claim limitations are met by the cited reference. Nonetheless, in order to more clearly claim the subject matter invented, claim 1 is amended to call for an adapter pin comprising a hollow cylindrical body having a central passage, a top nipple section with a top pin thread, and a bottom nipple section with a bottom pin thread, the bottom nipple section being received in an axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel and the bottom pin thread engaging a top end box thread in the central passage of the double-locking casing mandrel. This is not taught or suggested by co-applicant's prior art. The rejection of claim 1 is thereby traversed.

With respect to claim 7, the claim is likewise amended to recite that the pin-threaded bottom end of the adapter pin is received in an axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel for connection to a top box thread in the axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel. For reasons set forth above with reference to claim 1, the rejection of claim 7 is likewise traversed.

Claim 11 is amended to recite that the adapter pin comprises a hollow cylindrical body having a central passage, a top nipple section with a pin-threaded top end, and bottom nipple section with a pin-threaded bottom end received in an axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel for connection to a top box thread in the axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel. For reasons set forth above with reference to claim 1, the rejection of claim 11 is likewise traversed.

With respect to claims 22-26, claim 22 is amended to recite that the retainer flange is connected to a top of the double-locking casing mandrel using an adapter pin comprising a hollow cylindrical body having a central passage, a top nipple section with a pin-threaded top end and bottom nipple section with a pin-threaded bottom end received in an axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel for connection to a top box thread

in an axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel. This is neither taught nor suggested in the prior art made of record and the rejection of claims 22-26 is likewise traversed.

The Office Action rejected claim 2 as being anticipated by Duhn, et al. in United States Patent No. 5,611,398.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Office Action refers to the casing head (16) as an adapter pin. Casing head 16 is an independent screwed wellhead. Nonetheless, in order to more clearly define subject matter invented by the Applicants, claim 2 is amended to recite that the adapter pin has a bottom nipple section received in an axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel with a pin-threaded bottom end for connection to a top box thread in the axial passage of the double-locking casing mandrel. This is neither taught nor suggested by Duhn, et al., and rejection of claim 2 is traversed.

Allowable Subject Matter.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 12-21 and the notice that claims 3-6, 8-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Nonetheless, in view of the amendments made to claims 1, 2, 11 and 22, all claims pending in this application are now considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 3-6; 8-10; 12, 14, 15, 17, 23 and 24 are amended to provide proper antecedent, correct minor typographical errors, and provide consistent use of "double-locking casing mandrel." No new matter has been added.

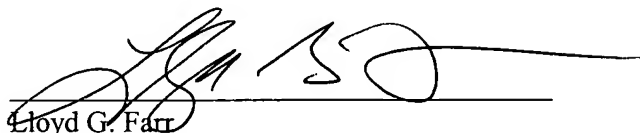
Drawings.

Applicant submits with this Amendment formal drawings to replace the drawings filed with the present application. No new matter has been added.

In view of these amendments and for reasons set forth above, this application is now considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NELSON MULLINS RILEY
& SCARBOROUGH, L.L.P.



Lloyd G. Farr
Registration No. 38,446

1320 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(404) 817-6165
Fax (803) 255-9831